

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 02356 231903Z  
ACTION SS-25

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AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2356

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS-1  
TAGS: PFOR, EF  
SUBJECT: WALDHEIM/BEGIN CONVERSATION, JULY 22

REF: USUN2352

1. SUMMARY: APART FROM POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD PEACE KEEPING FORCE IN SOUTH LEBANON, BEGIN'S CONVERSATION WITH WALDHEIM CONTAINED LITTLE NEW. IT LEFT URQUHART, WALDHEIM'S PRINCIPAL ADVISER ON MIDDLE EAST DISCOURAGED ABOUT POSSIBILITIES OF GETTING ARABS AND ISRAELIS INTO NEGOTIATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. USYG URQUHART GAVE LEONARD HASTY RUNDOWN ON WALDHEIM/BEGIN CONVERSATION AFTERNOON OF JULY 22. PRINCIPAL POINTS MADE BY BEGIN APPEAR TO BE THOSE MADE IN WASHINGTON TALKS AND IN HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS. HIS POSTURE ON SOUTH LEBANON HAS BEEN REPORTED REFTEL.

3. BEGIN BEGAN WITH LEBANESE QUESTION THAN MOVED TO GENEVA  
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PAGE 02 USUN N 02356 231903Z

CONFERENCE. IN DISCUSSING WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE, HE WAS ADAMANT AGAINST PLO, WHO HE TERMED WORST ENEMY OF THE JEWS SINCE THE NAZIS. HE DID SAY, HOWEVER, THAT PALESTINIANS COULD BE PRESENT IN JORDANIAN DELEGATION. IN DISCUSSING PLO HE USED PHRASE WHICH PARTICULARLY STRUCK URQUHART, NAMELY, THAT "TERRORISM IS THE UGLIEST PHENOMENON OF OUR TIME." BEGIN WAS PARTICULARLY SHARP

IN HIS CRITICISM OF "THE EUROPEANS" (IN PRESS CONFERENCE HE SPECIFIED EC-9) FOR THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARD ISRAEL. IN GENERAL AND ON PLO PARTICPATION IN PARTICULAR.

4. AS HE HAD ELSEWHERE, BEGAN PUSHED IDEA OF "MIXED COMMISSIONS" OR PROXIMITY TALKS IN NEW YORK IF GENEVA CONFERENCE COULD NOT BE RECONVENED. WALDHEIM POINTED OUT THAT ARABS DID NOT ACCEPT THE CONCEPT OF REGIONAL WORKING GROUPS OR MIXED COMMISSIONS EITHER SEPARATELY OR RELATED TO THE GENEVA CONFERENCE BUT ONLY OF FUNCTIONAL WORKING GROUPS. BEGIN RESPONDED THAT THIS WAS TOO BAD AND IT WOULD PERHAPS SIMPLY BE NECESSARY TO TRY AGAIN. HE SAID THAT ISRAEL WAS INTERESTED IN NEGOTIATING "PEACE TREATIES" WITH THE ARABS NOT PARTIAL AGREEMENTS. HE DISCUSSED EGYPT AND SYRIA IN THIS CONTEXT BUT MADE NO MENTION OF JORDAN AND THE WEST BANK. WITH REGARD TO PROXIMITY TALKS, URQUHART RECEIVED THE IMPRESSION THAT BEGIN HAD ONLY VAGUE UNDERSTANDING OF HOW RALPH BUNCHE'S NEGOTIATIONS AT RHODES HAD ACTUALLY BEEN CONDUCTED.

5. BEGIN DENOUNCED THE CONCEPT OF A PALESTINIAN STATE IN VIGOROUS TERMS AS A "MORTAL DANGER" TO ISRAEL.

6. BEFORE MEETING OPENED URQUHART HAD WARNED WALDHEIM OF NEED TO SAY SOMETHING WHICH WOULD DISTANCE HIM FROM BEGIN'S VIEWS ON PEACE PROCESS. ALDHEIM THEREFORE  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 USUN N 02356 231903Z

RESPONDED TO BEGIN BY THANKING HIM FOR HIS EXPOSITION AND FOR HIS POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS BUT UNDERLINED THAT MANY OF BEGIN'S POINTS WERE NOT IN ACCORD WITH KEY RESOLUTIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND SECURITY COUNCIL.

7. OTHER MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS BY BEGIN.

--A POLITICAL TRUCE WOULD BE DESIREABLE FOR THE NEAR FUTURE IN ORDER TO FACILITATE OPENING OF NEGOTIATIONS.

--HE GENUINELY APPRECIATED SADAT'S RECENT GESTURES SUCH AS RETURNING OF ISRAELI BODIES.

--THE ZIONISM/RACISM RESOLUTION WAS EXTREMELY OFFENSIVE; IT WAS BITTERLY WOUNDING TO CALL THE GENERATION OF BUCHENWALD RACISTS.

8. FINAL QUESTION TAKEN UP WITH SYG WAS JEWS IN SYRIA. BEGIN HAD ASKED SYG'S HELP IN GETTING THEM OUT AND SAID HE HAD REQUESTED SAME OF SECRETARY VANCE. URGUHART COMMENTED THAT HE BELIEVED BEGIN HAD ELIMIATED ANY POSSIBILITY

OF A SERIOUS INTERVENTION WITH ASSAD BY ANNOUNCING TO  
THE PRESS HIS REQUEST OF WALDHEIM. (BEGIN DID IMMEDIATELY  
TELL PRESS.)

9. URQUHART COMMENTED THAT HE HAD FOUND BEGIN EXTRAORDINARILY  
ATTRACTIVE PERSONALITY BUT THAT HE DID NOT SEE IN HIS  
POSITIONS ANY THING ENCOURAGING FOR PROSPECT OF NEGOTIA-  
TIONS. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD PLO REP TERZI HAD  
ALREADY REACTED VERY NEGATIVELY IN PRESS CONFERENCE  
FOLLOWING BEGIN'S MEETING WITH PRESS AND HE ASSUMED  
ARAB GOVERNMENTS WOULD FOLLOW.  
YOUNG

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## Message Attributes

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